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**Subject:** Weekly Briefing: Trump nominates hyper-partisan conservative activist to NC federal court vacancy

# NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices  
that **matter.**

## Weekly Briefing:

### Trump nominates hyper-partisan conservative activist to NC federal court vacancy Why this is not “business as usual” and should not be condoned

By [Rob Schofield](#)

Sometimes all one can do is stand and marvel in slack-jawed wonder at the breathtaking brazenness, hypocrisy and double standards that Donald Trump and his allies in the modern conservative movement are willing to employ and embrace. Six months into this dark new era, it's truly gotten to the point at which it's hard to think of any political act under the sun that conservatives would be unwilling to engage in in order to pursue and accomplish their goal of radically overhauling the American social contract.

The ultimate manifestation of this appalling new reality is, of course, Trump's symbiotic relationship with one of the globe's most powerful and immoral organized crime bosses, Vladimir Putin, but there are dozens of other – if more mundane – examples.

Here in North Carolina, the steady decline in any pretense by legislative leaders of adhering to basic rules of process and open government stands out. So too does the startling willingness of self-described “Christian” conservatives to cozy up to Trump and his serial mendacity.

#### The assault on the courts

If one is looking for a specific realm of public policy in which this kind of behavior has been most blatantly apparent in recent years, however, it would be hard to top the ongoing conservative effort to seize control of the judiciary. As NC Policy Watch reporter Melissa Boughton has detailed on multiple occasions, the Right's relentless effort to capture control of the courts in North Carolina has taken many shameless forms in recent months – from the aborted (at least temporarily) effort to pack the state Supreme Court, to the new law shrinking the Court of Appeals in order to deny Governor Cooper the right to appoint new judges, to the ongoing effort to gerrymander judicial districts to favor Republicans.

Of course, North Carolina conservatives didn't invent this kind of behavior. As was [discussed at some length in this space a couple of months back](#), capturing the courts is a longstanding national right-wing priority that appears on the verge of a major breakthrough:[[Read more...](#)]

## Progressive Pulse Blog:

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- ["People of NC require your protection": Gov. Cooper urges EPA to quickly set a safety standard for GenX](#)
- [Public hearings on Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Fayetteville, Rocky Mount focus on risks to water quality](#)
- [ICYMI: Judges rule Board of Education failed to meet burden of proof in challenge to transfer of power case](#)
- [Editorial blasts Superintendent Mark Johnson's bizarre Putin-like blackout](#)
- [Oh, those pesky facts: White House wrongfully attacks nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office](#)
- [First sampling results of GenX in Cape Fear River are in; health officials revise risk levels](#)

## Daily Radio Commentary:

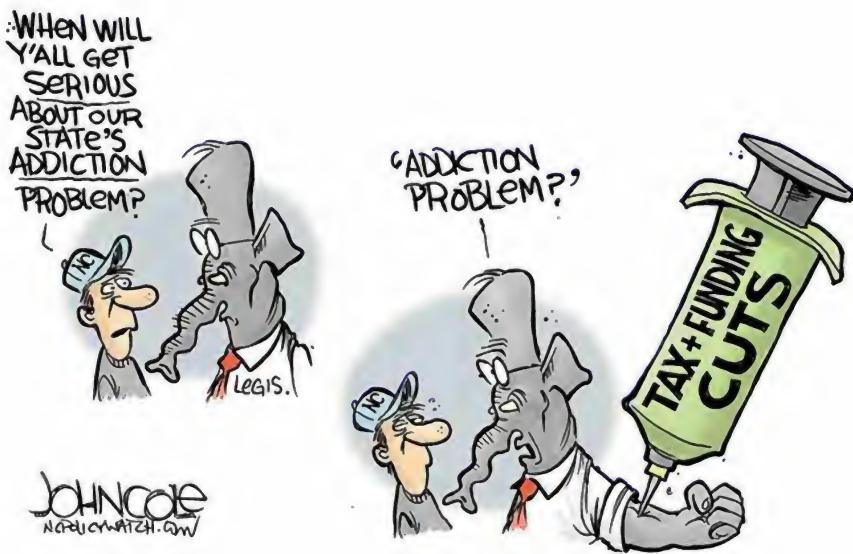
- [Making the case for public financing, redistricting reform](#)

## Weekly Radio Interviews:

- [State Rep. Cynthia Ball discusses the state budget, education funding and the need for an independent redistricting process](#)
- [NC Justice Center Executive Director Rick Glazier on the missed opportunities of the 2017 session of the General Assembly](#)

## Weekly Editorial Cartoon:

By John Cole



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## Daily News:

- [Health Care Overhaul Collapses as Two Republican Senators Defect](#)  
[The New York Times](#)
- [Health care bill collapse leaves divided GOP at crossroads](#)

### The Fayetteville Observer

- Cooper vetoes "legal notices" bill, says it's part of a GOP pattern to 'attack' critics  
[Greensboro.com](#)
- Cooper vetoes electronic legal notices in urban county  
[AP/WRAL.com](#)
- Senator accuses Cooper of 'brown nosing' after veto of newspaper notice bill  
[WRAL.com](#)
- Gov. Cooper letter calls for EPA action on GenX  
[Wilmington Star News](#)
- Barber, GOP trade charges over praying for Trump  
[WRAL.com](#)
- Family: Former NC Sen. Hagan out of Georgia hospital, recovery remains slow  
[Journalnow.com](#)
- Hearings postponed on Duke Energy's 15 percent rate hike  
[WRAL.com](#)
- Former Rockingham County DA pleads guilty to role in wife-swap hiring scheme  
[Raleigh News & Observer](#)
- Former DA Blitzer pleads guilty but other investigations delay sentence  
[Greensboro.com](#)
- DHS approves more H-2B visas for foreign workers, but Tillis' hold on nominee stands  
[Raleigh News & Observer](#)
- Umar Muhammad, a Durham activist who fought for restorative justice, died Monday  
[The Herald Sun](#)
- Wainscott files to run for Asheville mayor  
[Asheville Citizen Times](#)
- What you need to know about the solar eclipse in the Carolinas  
[Charlotte Observer](#)

### Daily Editorials:

- Trump's budget fantasies bump into the CBO's realities  
[Raleigh News & Observer](#)
- Who cares what's wrong with Donald Trump? What's wrong with us?  
[Raleigh News & Observer](#)
- Trump's budget fantasies bump into the CBO's realities  
[Raleigh News & Observer](#)
- How do we speed up disaster recovery?  
[Fayetteville Observer](#)
- Curbing domestic violence  
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- Get to the truth  
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- Kevin Siers cartoon: What's being made in America this week?  
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